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## Javits for Senator

The Post supports Jacob Javits for reelection to the United States Senate.

We have closely followed the debates between Mr. Javits and James Donovan. We believe the incumbent has clearly won the argument.

We support Javits despite our general view that the strengthening of liberal Democratic forces in Congress is a major goal of this Congressional campaign. Our preference would have been a candidate who would vigorously enlist in that bloc.

But Mr. Donovan has not persuaded us that he is such a man. There has been little coherence, consistency or conviction in his campaign words.

There have even been moments when he has indicated a closer identification with Sen. Dodd of Connecticut and other right-wing Democrats than with the liberal Senate contingent.

On the one hand Mr. Donovan has declared himself a "100 per cent Kennedy man" and cited Mr. Javits' deficiencies on that score. On the other he has offered such weasel words as these:

Contrary to reports, I am not against President Kennedy's medicare program. However, I would not have voted for it as it was proposed because I do not think private industry was given ample opportunity to prove whether they could handle it.

He has also declared that he would have voted against the withholding tax bill urged by the President.

We do not contend that any Senator should be a rubber stamp. But there are recent signs that Mr. Donovan, on social and economic matters, might be an added recruit for the conservative legions rather than a battler for progressivism. We do not need more thunder on the right.

In foreign policy there has been a dismaying undercurrent in some of Donovan's attacks. We were especially pained by his persistent unedifying effort, in one of their public debates, to picture Javits as having been "soft on Russia." This comes close to the line of illicit campaign tactics.

The Post has had its differences with Sen. Javits. We are disturbed by his recurrently glib effort to rationalize the conduct of the Republican leadership in both state and nation, and his willingness to affix his name some months ago to the "Republican manifesto" that essentially reflected the outlook of the Old Guard.

But it must also be said that much of the time—especially on the great na-

tional issue of civil rights—he has been a conscientious, working liberal allied with Sen. Douglas (D-Ill.) and others in a bipartisan fight for positive legislation. And it was Mr. Donovan who asserted blunderingly the other day that he saw no need for new civil rights laws—a remark not overcome by a later awkward "clarification" under fire.

Sen. Javits, in contrast to the equivocation of his running mate, Gov. Rockefeller, has spoken out resolutely against the John Birchers and demanded that enlightened Republicans stand up and be counted against them. He was equally forthright in backing the President's dispatch of troops to Mississippi.

On the record we believe there is worthy ground for Javits' reelection.

Mr. Donovan is an able lawyer but he has not proved a case—either against his opponent or in behalf of himself. We were initially impressed by Sen. Javits' agreement (again in contrast to Gov. Rockefeller) to free and full debate with a lesser-known opponent. We believe he has scored most of the points.